FULL BLEED STUDIOS
#3
RICHARD PACE
SCOTT LEE
PITT
CREW
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PITT® CREW #3

TYRANTS

FULL BLEED™ STUDIOS

CREATED BY DALE KEOWN

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In the days when he served his father, the evil emperor Zoyvod, PITT was considered to be the Creed's deadliest assasin warrior. This is a tale from that dark time... With his half-brother Wroth and the Creed Warmaster, Quagg, PITT arrives at the home-world of Sekkarii. A barren and blasted ruin, the planet bears the scars of an abandoned Creed invasion from a few years before. There, hiding in the acidic vapors, waiting-- is the immense and nightmarish beast that had slaughtered all the Sekkarii...

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WILDCARDE1

Thus must I
from the smoke
into the smother;
from a tyrant duke unto
a tyrant brother.

Shakespeare
As You Like It
I.ii. [304]

IN HIS YOUTH, PITT UNQUESTIONINGLY SERVED HIS FATHER, THE EVIL GOD-EMPEROR ZOYVOD OF THE CREED, AND, FOR A BRIEF TIME- WAS THE MOST MALEVOLENT FORCE THE UNVERSE HAD EVER KNOWN.

IN THE HANDFUL OF YEARS HE FOUGHT FOR THE CREED EMPIRE, *PITT* SOWED FEAR AND REAPED DEATH WHEREVER HE TRAVELLED.

DURING THAT TIME SO LONG AGO, THE GREAT POWERS THAT WARRED WITH THE CREED FEARED *PITT* FAR MORE THAN HIS SAVAGE BROTHER *WROTH*.

IT WAS BELIEVED BY SOME PHILOSOPHERS AND SCIENTISTS THAT PITT WAS AS BLACK-HEARTED AS HIS FATHER, AND IT WAS *ONLY* THE BENIGN AND MAGICAL INFLUENCE OF THE CHAKRAN CHILD OF LIGHT, *JEREB*, THAT HAD TURNED HIM AWAY FROM THE DARKNESS.

OTHERS HELD THAT PITT HAD ALWAYS HAD POTENTIAL FOR GOODNESS DUE TO THE HUMAN PART OF HIS GENETIC MAKE-UP, AND THAT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE REBELLED AGAINST ZOYVOD, THEY'D POINT TO THE EVENTS IN THE SEKKAR SYSTEM AS PROOF OF THIS.

THIS IS THE TALE OF WHAT TRANSPIRED ON AND ABOVE THE FOURTH PLANET OF THE SEKKAR SYSTEM...

SEKKAR 4,
FIFTEEN LUNAR CYCLES AGO.
1233, CREED CALENDAR.

ANSWER MY QUESTIONS, *CREED*, OR YOU'LL EXPERIENCE PAIN UNDREAMT OF IN YOUR WORST NIGHTMARES.

ZOYVOD TELLS US THAT *PAIN* IS OUR BEST TEACHER AND ONLY FRIEND.

IT IS *ALWAYS* WITH US AND *NEVER* LIES.

THEN I'LL *HELP YOU TO KNOW YOUR FRIEND BETTER* THAN YOU EVER *HOPED!*

SAKKEM MOLLANDER, THE CREED ARE WITHDRAWING!

WHAT?! WHERE ARE THEY WITHDRAWING *FROM?*

THEY'RE PULLING OUT FROM EVERY BATTLE LINE, SAKKEM.
THE RECONNAISSANCE SCOUTS ARE REPORTING THAT THE CREED ARE RETREATING TO THEIR SPACE VESSELS.
I'LL CONTACT CENTRAL COMMAND.
THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE-- THEY'RE WINNING!
COMMAND, THIS IS SAKKEM MOLLANDER IN SECTOR 354. I'VE REPORTS THAT THE CREED ARE RETREATING FROM MULTIPLE FRONTS-
-EVERYWHERE?
THE ENTIRE INVASION FORCE...
THE CREED HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE INVASION.
SMALL POCKETS OF CREED WARRIORS HAVE BEEN CUT OFF FROM THEIR RETREAT. SOON THEY WILL EITHER SURRENDER... OR DIE.
THE WAR... IS OVER.
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
WHAT ABOUT HIM? GOOD QUESTION...
TELL ME, WARRIOR, WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER- BEING TORN TO SHREDS BY WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF ALL THE SEKKARI SOLDIERS YOU'VE SLAUGHTERED, OR A QUICK DEATH RIGHT NOW?
A MOMENT AGO, YOU WERE GOING TO TORTURE ME TO DEATH, SO WHY OFFER ME ANY SORT OF MERCY?
MERCY? HAH! NO, I'M MERELY FEELING MAGNANIMOUS IN VICTORY.
THAT FEELING WILL BE SHORT LIVED.
OUR OBJECTIVE WAS NOT TO CONQUER YOUR PEOPLE, BUT TO STRIP MINE THIS WORLD FOR THE MATERIALS WE NEED TO BUILD AND FUEL OUR WARSHIPS.

YOUR PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO SEEK *THAT* ELSEWHERE, NOW.
SAKKEM MOLLANDER, THEIR SPACE VESSELS ARE *LEAVING*.
THE CREED EMPIRE EXPANDS FASTER THAN WE CAN SUPPLY OUR FRONTIER FORCES.
OUR ARMIES ARE SPREAD THIN FIGHTING OPPONENTS AS TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED AS *WE* ARE.
SO A SMALL FORCE OF CADETS ARMED WITH *OUTDATED* WEAPONRY WAS ASSEMBLED TO ELIMINATE YOUR MOBILE ARMOR AND DEPLETE YOUR BOMB SUPPLIES...
WHAT *IS* THAT?
IS ONE OF THEIR VESSELS *BURNING*?
...WE WERE *TOLD* IT WOULD BE A *GOOD TRAINING* EXERCISE.
IT'S TOO BIG TO BE ONE OF THEIR VESSELS.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S COMING *TOWARD* US.
TELL ME *WHAT* IT *IS*! SOME SORT OF *BOMB*?
SAKKEM, WE HAVE TO *GO*! IT'S ABOUT TO *HIT*!!
NO, IT ISN'T A *BOMB*... IT IS *CRYTIS*.

CENTRAL COMMAND, THIS IS AIRSHIP TWENTY-TWO. A LARGE OBJECT HAS CRASHED INTO SECTOR 354.
I THINK IT *DESTROYED* THE COMMAND POST. THEIR RADIO LINE IS DEAD.
I DON'T THINK IT WAS A BOMB- THEY PROBABLY JUST DROPPED A LARGE CARGO CONTAINER, OR SOMETHING, FROM ORBIT.
LET'S HOPE THEY DON'T HAVE TOO MANY MORE OF THEM TO DROP ON US.

I CAN HEAR SOME OF THE SURVIVORS SCREAMING, TRAPPED IN THE RUBBLE OR WOUNDED. I'VE SENT OUT A SMALL DETACHMENT OF SOLDIERS TO LOOK FOR THEM...
WE ARE NOW ENTERING SECTOR 354 AND NEARING THE CRATER.
DO YOU SMELL THAT?
MAYBE THEY DROPPED THEIR SPACE LATRINE ON US.
IT'S NOT THAT FOUL... COUGH...
COUGH-COUGH-UHNNNCOUGH-
HHRUURRURRR!!
GREAT VAUL, WHAT'S THAT?
COUGH-
HHRUURRURRR!!
COUGH

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WARMASTER QUAGG'S PERSONAL LOG. 1235TH YEAR OF ZOYVOD'S RULE.
SHORTLY AFTER HE WAS PUT IN COMMAND OF MY BATTLE GROUP, PITT DISCOVERED AN INTERESTING WAY TO PASS THE LONG TRAVEL TIME SPENT ON STARSHIPS--
DESTROYING BATTLE TRAINING ROBOTS.
THE 'BOTS ARE USUALLY SET TO "FIRST BLOOD", WHICH ALLOWS AN INJURED WARRIOR TO TERMINATE THE SESSION WITH A VOICE COMMAND.

PITT FOUND THAT LESS THAN SATISFYING-
SO HE HAS THE TECHNICIANS REMOVE THE SAFETY MECHANISMS AND WIRE THE ROBOTS TO FIGHT UNTIL THEY ARE COMPLETELY DISABLED.
GLITCH
HE TOLD ME IT'S SO HE CAN FEEL LIKE HE'S REALLY KILLED SOMETHING.

IT MUST *WORK* FOR HIM- HE LOOKS AS SATISFIED AS HE DID WHEN HE *BUTCHERED* MY FAVORITE WIFE, *KANRA*, A YEAR AGO.
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
I HAVE *DESTROYED* EVERY OPPONENT WHO *DARED* TO *FIGHT* ME, WROTH.
BUT YOU'VE *NEVER* FACED *ME*...
CONGRATULATIONS, BROTHER. YOU HAVE DEFEATED YET *ANOTHER* TRAINING ROBOT...
PERHAPS *ONE DAY*, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BEAT A *REAL* OPPONENT.
CLAP CLAP
OUR SHIPS HAVE ENTERED THE SEKKAR SYSTEM. WE'LL BE ACHIEVING ORBIT AROUND SEKKAR FOUR WITHIN THE HOUR.
I WANT EVERYONE HERE WEARING THEIR ACID CONTAINMENT SUITS AND FULLY EQUIPPED FOR THE *CRYTIS* RETRIEVAL BEFORE THEN.

PITT, YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US-- THAT IS-- IF YOU'RE FINISHED BREAKING ALL OF YOUR TOYS!
KRRRUNKCH!
CONSIDERING HOW MUCH I HATE PITT, I'M ALWAYS AMAZED AT HOW MUCH MY STOMACH TURNS WHEN I'M IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS BROTHER, WROTH.
I SERVED UNDER HIM FOR YEARS, COVERING UP HIS POORLY THOUGHT-OUT STRATEGIES, AND EVEN HIS FAILED ATTEMPT ON PITT'S LIFE.
PERHAPS IT'S NOT HATRED I FEEL FOR WROTH BUT RATHER CONTEMPT.
QUAGG, TELL ME ABOUT THIS CRYTIS CREATURE
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO READ THE FILES.
AND YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
EVERYTHING.

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BEFORE THE TIME WAS BORN THE CREED TRIED TO STRIP MINE A WORLD CALLED RAW!

.. THE PLANET'S NATIVES WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THIS, SO THEY RESISTED

YOUR FATHER WANTED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THESE BEINGS AND AUTHORIZED THE USE OF [illegible] GEAR TO ELIMINATE THE [illegible]

THE CREED WAITED UNTIL THE WORST OF THE RADIATION HAD DIED OFF. THEY BEGAN MINING THE PLANET.

APART FROM THE INCREASE IN SLAVE DEATHS FROM THE FUTRID ENVIRONMENT ALL WAS WELL.

BUT THEN

SOMETHING WENT WRONG

A NEW CREATURE WAS BORN OF THE RADIATION AND TOXIC WASTE DUMPED ON RAW!

BUT WHY SEND IT TO MYTHIER? THAT IS NOT A CREED SCIENCE WORLD

LIKE RAW, MYTHIER WAS RESISTING OUR ATTEMPTS TO TAKE ITS RESOURCES.

ZOYVOD THOUGHT OUR MILITARY STRENGTH WOULD BE BETTER USED EXPANDING HIS EMPIRE SO HE HAS THE CREATURE, NOW NAMED CRYSIS TO HONOR THE WARMASTER, DROPPED ON THIS WORLD

WITHIN A YEAR, THE ENTIRE POPULATION WAS DEAD EITHER BY THE CREATURE OR ITS TOXIC EMISSIONS

ZOYVOD PUT HIS BEST SCIENTISTS TO THE TASK OF DISCOVERING WHAT HAPPENED

EXAMINING TISSUE SAMPLES RECOVERED FROM THE ATTACKERS THEY DETERMINED THAT THE [illegible] HAD SOMEHOW MERGED THEIR GENETIC CODES INTO THEIR NEW DESTROYER.

THAT WAS ALL YOUR FATHER NEEDED TO KNOW. HE DISPATCHED AN ARMY TO RAW! TO CAPTURE THE BEAST FOR FURTHER STUDY.

THEN ANOTHER ARMY...

AND ANOTHER

THIS LAST ONE WAS LED BY WARMASTER CRYSIS. HE TRADED IT WHILE STILL RING ACCEPTABLE CASUALTIES, AND TRANSPORTED IT TO THE CLOSTER PLANET MYTHIER

A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO, CRYTIS WAS DROPPED ON SEKKAR FOUR. NOW WE ARE TO RETRIEVE CRYTIS AND HAUL IT TO THE TYNES SYSTEM, SO IT CAN DEPOPULATE ANOTHER WORLD.
RECAPTURE ONE OF MY FATHER'S CREATIONS FROM THIS DEAD PLANET- SO IT CAN KILL AGAIN ELSEWHERE-?!
YES.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW.
IN THAT MOMENT I REALIZED THAT PITT WAS NO LONGER THE FERAL KILLER I HAD DRAGGED OFF THE SURFACE OF THE CREED HOMEWORLD A YEAR AGO.
DESPITE MY SOUL'S CRY FOR VENGEANCE, I WAS STARTING TO SEE SOMETHING IN HIM THAT I ACTUALLY LIKED.
IT WOULD NOT STOP ME FROM KILLING HIM, GIVEN THE CHANCE.

THESE WEAPONS WILL DELIVER THE NEUROAGENT INTO CRYTIS' NERVOUS SYSTEM.
IT WILL PARALYZE HIM FOR SEVERAL HOURS.
IT CAN TAKE UP TO FIFTEEN MINUTES FOR THE NEUROAGENT TO WORK, SO ONCE YOU HIT YOUR TARGET- RUN!!
PITT, YOU AND QUAGG TAKE FOUR WARRIORS AND SCOUT OUT THE WESTERN STEPPES.
WHY SO FEW?
BECAUSE I'M NOT SURE YOU CAN COUNT TO FIVE, BROTHER!
NOW, GO!

HOW MANY OF THOSE NEUROAGENT WEAPONS DO WE HAVE WITH US?
ONE. KLN'N.GHM'S CARRYING IT.
DO YOU THINK WROTH SENT US TOWARD THE CREATURE?
NO. I KNOW HE SENT US DIRECTLY TOWARD IT.
HAVE HIM READY TO FIRE IT- WE SHOULD ENCOUNTER CRYTIS WITHIN MINUTES.
HE IS MUCH SMARTER THAN WROTH OR I GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR.
WHERE DO YOU WANT MY SCOUT GROUP?
HERE. I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE CREATURE IS!
BUT YOU JUST TOLD PITT-
I KNOW WHAT I SAID.
.. AND WE'LL BE FOLLOWING HIM INTO THE STEPPES.. JUST AS SOON AS WE HEAR THAT THEY'VE MET CRITIS..

MAYBE HE DIDN'T SEND US RIGHT AT CRYTIS.
I WONDER HOW MUCH PITT KNOWS ABOUT MY INVOLVEMENT IN WROTH'S PAST SCHEMES AGAINST HIM.
WE BOTH KNOW MY BROTHER HAS BEEN TRYING TO KILL ME SINCE I WAS BORN.
BE READY, KUN'NIGHM, THE CREATURE IS CLOSE.
IF HE EVER FINDS OUT I WAS THE ONE WHO LEFT HIM FOR DEAD ON THE CREED HOMEWORLD, HE'LL CRUSH ME LIKE AN INSECT.
HOW CAN YOU TELL?... ...IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN SMELL HIM IN THIS AIR... OR EVEN SEE HIM IN THIS FOG!
JUST LIKE THAT?
KUN'NIGHM!!
CHOM!

LOOKING INTO CRYTIS' EYES, I COULD SEE THE SAME BESTIAL RAGE THAT WAS IN PITT'S EYES WHEN I CAPTURED HIM ON CREED.

AND I STOPPED WORRYING ABOUT PITT KILLING ME...

...BECAUSE I THOUGHT- THEN THAT CRYTIS WAS GOING TO BEAT HIM TO IT.

RUN!!

DESPITE MY TELLING THE OTHERS TO RUN, I WAS ROOTED TO THE SPOT FROM FEAR, AND WATCHED HELPLESSLY AS THE BEAST ATE BRAHDSAW.

PITT HAD THE PRESENCE OF MIND TO GRAB THE NEUROAGENT CANISTER FROM THE BLOODY PUDDLE THAT HAD BEEN KUN'NIHGM.

I HAD NO IDEA WHY HE THREW AWAY HIS GLOVES...

...UNTIL HE STARTED CLIMBING UP CRYTIS' BODY!
...USING HIS CLAWS TO DIG INTO THE BEAST'S SCALES!
I STARTED TO RUN WHEN CRYTIS DEVOURED OUR FOURTH WARRIOR.

AS I FELT THE CREATURE'S ACRID BREATH THROUGH THE LAYERS OF MY SUIT
I WATCHED HIM PLUNGE THE NEUROAGENT CAPSULE INTO CRYTIS' EYE, AND RECALLED WROTH SAYING IT COULD TAKE UP TO FIVE MINUTES TO TAKE EFFECT.
GOING THROUGH THE EYE WOULD SPEED UP THE PROCESS.
THUK
RRAHRR!
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR US TO JOIN IN.
SHOULD BE CLOSE NOW.

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
I REMEMBER THINKING AS I STARED UP AT PITT, THAT IF HE WERE WROTH, HE WOULD BE TRYING TO ESCAPE.

PROUD?!
WHY WOULD I BE PROUD?
YOU FOILED ANOTHER OF WROTH'S ATTEMPTS ON YOUR LIFE. YOU SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE MISSION. YOU DEFEATED A CREATURE THAT SLEW TWO CREED ARMIES.
I AM THAT CREATURE
WHAT?!?
ZOYVOD CREATED IT MUCH THE SAME AS HE CREATED ME.
BEFORE YOU RETRIEVED ME FROM THE CREED HOMEWORLD'S DUMPING GROUND, I, LIKE CRYTIS, WAS EXTREMELY SAVAGE AND IGNORANT, AND I, TOO, WAS ONCE FREE.
I BOTH ENVY AND PITY CRYTIS. IT WILL NEVER KNOW THE SLAVERY IT IS CONDEMNED TO
KLIK!

ZOYVOD ORDERED ALL CARGO SHIPS AND CONTAINERS TO BE SET FOR IMMEDIATE DESTRUCTION, TO KEEP OUR WEAPONS AND SUPPLIES FROM FALLING INTO ENEMY HANDS.
AS THE CARGO SHELL DISINTEGRATED, I SAW CRYTIS TUMBLING TOWARD THE PLANET, DYING IN THE VACCUUM OF SPACE. I WONDERED WHAT MY EMPEROR WOULD THINK ABOUT THIS...
AND WHAT HE WOULD DO TO ME.
AN ENGINEERING MALFUNCTION. TERRIBLE ACCIDENT. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES.
I UNDERSTAND.
AND TO ME, FOR ALLOWING THIS TO HAPPEN TO ONE OF HIS FAVORITE
THE END
THE END

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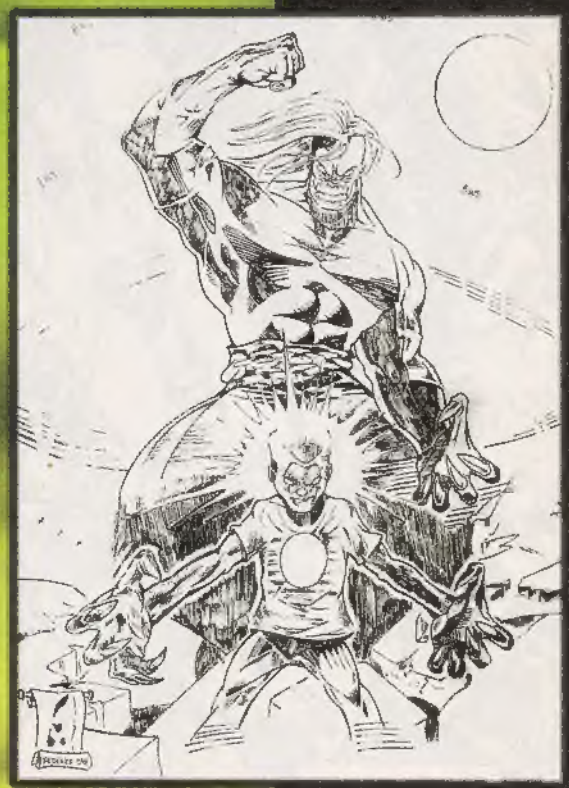

MORRONE FEDERICO

N. Collyer

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